

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have rewritten claims 2 and 13 in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claim 1, from which claims 2 and 13 previously depended, and have rewritten claim 5 in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claim 4, from which claim 5 previously depended.

Applicants have amended claim 3 to depend from independent claim 2, claims 6 - 8 to depend from claim 5, claim 9 to depend from any one of claims 2, 3 and 5 - 8, and claims 15 and 16 to depend from claim 5. In amending claims 2 and 5, applicants have addressed the objections to claims 1 and 4 and adopted the Examiner's helpful comments at the bottom of page 2 of the office action. Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer and have amended the title to adopt the title suggested by the Examiner on page 2 of the office action.

Since the foregoing amendments merely rewrite claims in independent form, comply with formal matters and cancel claims, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title and the claim objection on page 2 of the office action are requested.

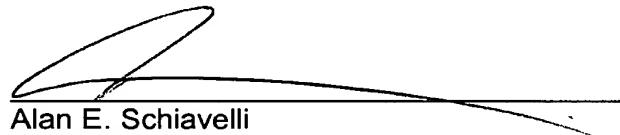
In view of the foregoing amendments rewriting claims 2, 5 and 13 in independent form, amending the remaining claims to ultimately depend from one of claims 2, 5 and 13, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in, inter alia, claims 2, 5 and 13 on page 6 of the office action, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 1/9 and 3/9 under 35 USC 102(b) on page 3 of the office action and the rejection of claims 1/10, 3/10, 6/9, 6/10, 7/19, 7/10, 8/9, 8/10, 4, 6 - 8 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) on page 4 of the office action are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.40206X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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